

Amendments to the claims:

1. (currently amended) A golf bag comprising:  
a generally tubular body attached at one end thereof to a top member and at the other end thereof to a bottom member;  
a shoulder strap having an upper end located near said top member and having a lower end located intermediate said top and bottom members;  
a mechanism for urging said shoulder strap into a retracted position and for allowing movement of said shoulder strap from said retracted position into an extended position; and  
said mechanism including an a single elastic cord and no inelastic cords connected to between said bottom member and said upper end of said shoulder strap.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The golf bag of claim 1, wherein said mechanism further comprises an anchor on said bottom member for connecting said elastic cord to said bottom member.

4. (original) The golf bag of claim 3, wherein said mechanism further comprises a ring for connecting said elastic cord to an extension on said shoulder strap upper end.

5. (original) The golf bag of claim 4, wherein said extension on said shoulder strap upper end extends through said ring and is anchored to said top member.

6. (currently amended) The golf bag of claim 5, wherein said top member has an opening formed therein and wherein said extension on said shoulder strap upper end passes through said opening.

7. (original) The golf bag of claim 6, wherein said anchor is releasable so that said elastic cord may be released from said anchor and said mechanism may be deactivated.

8. (original) The golf bag of claim 7, wherein said anchor comprises a pair of strips with overlapping end portions that are releasably held together.

9. (currently amended) The golf bag of claim 8, further comprising releasable fasteners ~~means~~ on the overlapping end portions of said strips for releasably fastening said overlapping end portions together.

10. (currently amended) In a golf bag having a generally tubular body attached at one end thereof to a top member and at the other end thereof to a bottom member, the improvement comprising:

a shoulder strap having an upper end located near said top member and having a lower end located intermediate said top and bottom members;

~~resilient means~~ a mechanism for urging said shoulder strap into a retracted position and for allowing movement of said shoulder strap from said retracted position into an extended position; and

said ~~resilient means~~ mechanism including ~~an~~ a single elastic cord and no inelastic cords connected ~~to~~ between said bottom member and said upper end of said shoulder strap.

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) The improvement of claim 10, further comprising:

an anchor on said bottom member connecting said elastic cord to said bottom member; and  
a ring connecting said elastic cord to an extension on said upper end of said shoulder strap.

13. (currently amended) A golf bag comprising:

a generally tubular body attached at one end thereof to a top member and at the other end thereof to a bottom member;

a shoulder strap having an upper end located near said top member and having a lower end located intermediate said top and bottom members;

a mechanism for urging said shoulder strap into a retracted position and for allowing movement of said shoulder strap from said retracted position into an extended position;

said mechanism including an elastic cord and no inelastic cords connected ~~to~~ between said bottom member and said upper end of said shoulder strap, an anchor on said bottom member

connecting said elastic cord to said bottom member, and a ring connecting said elastic cord to an extension on said shoulder strap upper end;

said extension of said shoulder strap upper end extending through said ring and being anchored to said top member;

said top member having an opening formed therein and said extension on said shoulder strap upper end passing through said opening; and

said anchor being releasable so that said elastic cord may be released from said anchor and said mechanism may be deactivated.